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Poland

Market Development Report

Polish Norms

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Report Highlights:

All food products imported to Poland must comply with official quality standards. These standards also apply to products transhipped through Poland which have to be temporarily stored in Polish facilities.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Warsaw [PL1], PL

Polish Norms

Most U.S. exporters of food and agricultural products are aware of the export documentation associated with products shipped to Poland including veterinary health or phyto-sanitary certificates. However, exporters should also be conscious of Polish regulations which concern quality, production or storage standards. All food products imported to Poland must comply with official quality standards. These standards also apply to products transhipped through Poland which have to be temporarily stored in Polish facilities. Exporters should be aware that, in many cases, Polish norms differ from U.S. quality standards particularly in the length of time allowed for storage. Polish officials have become more attentive in requiring adherence to these norms as a way of ensuring the quality of all food products.

Generally speaking, Polish norms regulate the quality of all products from tripe to trucks. For food and agriculture, Poland has established official production and quality standards for which all domestic and imported agricultural and food products must comply. These “Norms” are established by the Polish Committee on Norms and contain a wide range of requirements including product age limitations, freezing and storage requirements or residue limits.

Once norms are published, the responsible ministry will issue regulations pertaining to the specific standard. The most recent complete list of obligatory regulations for food products was published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on September 29, 1999. However, supplements are published periodically. The last updated supplement is dated December 12, 2000. An exemplary list of norms along with reference numbers and the name of the responsible ministry is included at the end of this report..

Numbering System

Each norm is assigned a specific number, such as PN-83 A-07005 for “Foodstuffs, Climatic, Environment and Cold Storage Periods.” PN stands for Polish Norm; -83 (1983) is the year the norm was established; A- specifies domain, agriculture in this instance, and 07005 is the number of the specific standard.

The table below shows the general conditions which must be met for storage of poultry meat and offal.

Poultry Meat and Offal

	Name of the Product	Temperature °C	Air Movement	Time of Storage (months)
1	Poultry - whole in thermal-shrinkable foil	-22.1 to -30 -18.1 to -22 -14.1 to -18	not specified natural, periodically forced natural & periodically forced	12 12 5
2	Poultry - whole in poly-ethylene bags	-22.1 to -30 -18.1 to -22 -14.1 to -18	not specified natural, periodically forced natural & periodically forced	8 6 3

3	Poultry - with no casings	-22.1 to -30 -18.1 to -22 -14.1 to -18	not specified natural & periodically forced natural & periodically forced	5 3 2
4	Poultry - parts in thermal-shrink foil	-22.1 to -30 -18.1 to -22 -14.1 to -18	not specified natural & periodically forced natural & periodically forced	12 12 5
5	Poultry - parts in poly-ethylene bags	-22.1 to -30 -18.1 to -22 -14.1 to -18	not specified natural, periodically forced natural&periodically forced	7 4 2
6	Poultry offal and raw fat in poly - ethylene bags	-22.1 to -30 -18.1 to -22	not specified natural, periodically forced	3 3

Standards for storage apply to both domestic and imported products, as well as products in transit which are temporally stored in Polish cold storage facilities. Enforcement of Polish Norms is carried out by the veterinary and phyto-sanitary authorities.

The Polish Committee of Norms has indicated that Poland will change its existing system of standards by January 1, 2003, as part of its EU-accession process. The new system will be similar to the one existing currently in the European Union. Obligatory norms will be replaced by the directives setting certain minimum obligatory standards for products.

Exporters should ensure that all relevant standards required for products have been met in advance of shipments. Information on particular norms can be obtained from the Polish Committee on Normalization - Polski Komitet Normalizacyjny, Center for Information and Documentation, ul. Elektoralna 2, 00-139 Warsaw; phone/fax: (48-22) 6247122. It is also possible to buy Polish Norms (in Polish only) on CDs from Wydawnictwo Ars Boni Sp. z o.o.; ul. Zakret 26, 60-351 Poznan, phone/fax: (48-61) 8688323 or (48-61) 8671827; email: www.integram.pl

Selected list of Polish Norms applying to Food and Agricultural Products:

Number: PN-83/A-07005

Status: Fully Obligatory

Title: Food products. Climatic conditions and periods of cold storage.

Ref No.: DU 40/94 poz. 152 i DU 83/97 poz. 535 i DU 139/98 poz. 901 i DU 88/99 poz. 989

Responsible Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Number: PN-A-07006:1997

Status: Fully Obligatory

Title: Food products. Directives for freezing in cold storage.

Ref no: DU 139/98 poz. 901 i DU 88/99 poz. 989

Responsible Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Number: PN-64/A-07008

Status: Fully Obligatory

Title: Phyto-sanitary conditions in cold storage.
Ref no.: DU 40/94 poz. 152 i DU 83/97 poz. 535 i DU 139/98 poz. 901 i DU 88/99 poz. 989
Responsible Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Number: PN-A-75980:1997
Status: Fully Obligatory
Title: Meat and vegetable products. Condensed soups. Contains description of the product, quality standards and norms of testing, packaging, storage and transportation
Ref. no.: DU 139/98 poz. 901 i DU 88/99 poz. 989
Responsible Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Number: PN-65/A-82000
Status: Fully Obligatory
Title: Meat and offals of slaughter animals. Common requirements and analyzes)
Ref. No. DU 40/94 poz. 152 i DU 83/97 poz. 535 i DU 139/98 poz. 901 i DU 88/99 poz. 989
Responsible Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Number: PN-A-82012:1996
Status: Fully Obligatory
Title: Processed meats. Ready-to-eat meat and offals products. Requirements. The norm contains description of the product, quality standards and norms of testing, packaging, storage and transportation.
Ref. No. DU 83/97 poz. 535 i DU 139/98 poz. 901 i DU 88/99 poz. 989
Responsible Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Number: PN-93/A-82245
Status: Fully Obligatory
Title: Edible gelatine
Definition: Gelatin Classifications. Quality standards and norms for testing, packaging, storage and transportation.
Ref. no. DU 40/94 poz. 152 i DU 83/97 poz. 535 i DU 139/98 poz. 901 i DU 88/99 poz. 989
Responsible Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Number: PN-92/A-86521
Status: Fully Obligatory
Title: Poultry meat and products. Terminology. Definitions of terms: poultry meat, poultry carcass, poultry parts, MDM, sausage, slaughter, processing, chilling etc.
Ref. no. DU 40/94 poz. 152 i DU 83/97 poz. 535 i DU 139/98 poz. 901 i DU 88/99 poz. 989
Responsible Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Number: PN-92/A-86522
Status: Fully Obligatory
Title: Poultry meat mechanically deboned The norm contains description of the product, quality standards and norms for testing, packaging, storage and transportation.
Ref. no. DU 40/94 poz. 152 i DU 83/97 poz. 535 i DU 139/98 poz. 901 i DU 88/99 poz. 989
Responsible Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Number: PN-A-86525:1996
Status: Fully Obligatory
Title: Poultry products. Canned poultry meat. Common requirements. Types of canned products (pasteurized or sterilized), labeling, microbiological requirements, storage, packaging, transportation and testing.
Ref. no. DU 65/96 poz. 322 i DU 83/97 poz. 535 i DU 139/98 poz. 901 i DU 88/99 poz. 989
Responsible Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development